

Message Text

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42

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 VO-03 SCA-01 INSE-00 CPR-01 SAJ-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6748

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CVIS IC US

SUBJECT: ALTHING DEBATES US TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS

REF: REYKJAVIK 1388

1. PEOPLES ALLIANCE-BACKED PARLIAMENTARY RESOLUTION AIMED AT COUNTERING US VISA REGULATIONS(REFTEL) WAS DISCUSSED FOR FIRST TIME ON FLOOR OF ALTHING NOVEMBER 4.

2. MEASURE'S SPONSOR, MAGNUS KJARTANSSON, URGED THAT RECIPROCAL RESTRICTIONS BE PLACED ON CITIZENS OF ANY COUNTRY THAT HINDERED FREE TRAVEL OF ICELANDERS. HE CITED UNITED STATES IN PARTICULAR. KJARTANSSON CHARGED THAT IN FURTHERANCE OF EFFORTS TO DENY ENTRY TO CERTAIN ICELANDIC CITIZENS, US HAS SPIED ON ICELANDERS AND HAD COMPILED "BLACK LIST" OF UNDESIRABLES. HE ADDED THAT HE HAD REASON TO BELIEVE HIS TELEPHONE HAS BEEN TAPPED BY AMERICANS.

3. THOUGH SEVERAL MPS DEPLORED EXISTENCE OF CONTROLS ON TRAVEL TO US, NONE OUTSIDE OF PA MEMBERS AGREED WITH KJARTANSSON'S PROPOSAL FOR OFFSETTING RESTRICTIONS ON US VISITORS TO ICELAND. SOME MEMBERS CALLED ATTENTION TO CURTAILMENT OF TRAVEL TO AND IN EASTEN EUROPE AND USSR. ONE NOTED THAT ICELAND'S AMBASSADOR IN MOSCOW IS NOT ALLOWED FREEDOM OFMOVEMENT; ANOTHER

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CITED PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN GETTING SOVIET VISA.

4. FONMIN EINAR AGUSTSSON SAID THAT MOST EUROPEAN NATIONS, AS WELL AS MANY OTHERS, IMPOSED NO TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS ON AMERICANS EVEN THOUGH US DID NOT FULLY RECIPROCATE. HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THERE ARE COUNTRIES OTHER THAN US WHICH DEMAND VISAS OF ICELANDERS ALTHOUGH NATIONALS OF THESE COUNTRIES NEED NO VISA TO ENTER ICELAND. AGUSTSSON WENT ON TO SAY, HOWEVER, THAT HE THOUGHT IT APPROPRIATE THAT THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE EXAMINE MATTER "IN CONTEXT OF HELSINKI CONFERENCE AND BELGRADE FOLLOW-UP SESSION." FONMIN SAID HE BELIEVED RECIPROCITY SHOULD GOVERN INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL WHETHER INVOLVING US OR ANY OTHER NATION.

5. RESOLUTION WAS REFERRED TO FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE.
BLAKE

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